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FBI 000 E-0238

Informal Record of Meeting Held With Army
Representatives Concerning German Scientists
at Wright Field Applying for Immigration

REVIEWED BY 300A

DATE 3/18/88

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RELEASE DENIED

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Architect's building

June 5, 1946

Chairman: Mr. Flinn, Office of Controls.

Department of State Members: Mr. Klaus, Mr. Bradford, Mr. Knight
Mr. Brewster

Army Air Forces Participants: Lt. Col. Cranford
Capt. Hartig, Lt. Froelish, Wright Field.

Adjutant General's Office: Colonel Hazel, Capt. Bettman

JICA: Commander Moran.

Mr. Flinn as Chairman called the meeting to order and asked
Lt. Col. Cranford to outline briefly the background of the Interim
Project of bringing top-ranking German scientists to the United
States for military exploitation under military supervision.

Lt. Col. Cranford stated that the execution of the project was
assigned to the Secretary of War, with the approval of the
Secretary of State. Since September 1945 175 German scientists
had been brought to the United States, and 34 of these men are
working under AIF supervision at Wright Field. Lt. Col. Cranford
pointed out that a number of these men are needed for long-range
exploitation by the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and that even a
2-3 year stay would not be of great value. The scientists are
to be signed up by industrial plants handling Army, Navy, and
Air Force contracts.

Lt. Col. Cranford went on to say that under this Interim
Project the Air Force alone is planning to bring in another
100 scientists for specific projects; they are not being brought in
on a denial basis. The additional hundred German scientists are

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to be kept provisionally at Wright Field under the same conditions under which the 34 are at present serving.

Speaking of the immediate problem of the 34 scientists at Wright Field Lt. Col. Cranford supported by Captain Hartig and Lt. Froelich stated that the AAF authorities are ready to clear 14 of the 34 men for immigration purposes. It is felt that all 14 men are suited both as regards a) security, b) scientific ability; the other 20 have not passed muster yet largely because they have not been at Wright Field more than 3-4 months and have not been sufficiently screened. Only two of the 34 scientists according to Capt. Hartig are obviously not of the type to keep in the U.S. both from the point of view of security and scientific ability.

The 10 names submitted on a priority basis are the ranking candidates in the group of the 14 qualifying scientists.

The discussion then moved on to the present living and working conditions of the scientists at Wright Field. Capt. Hartig explained that the 34 Germans are housed in former NYA camp barracks. They have individual rooms equipped with the bare necessities; they eat at a common mess (they were formerly served by specially screened German PW's, but they are now served by U.S. Army personnel). They are transported to their offices or laboratories in the morning at 8, and returned to the billets at 4:30 p.m., allowing one hour for lunch. They are permitted to go to the movies on base, and if escorted by an Army officer they may go to town. Every Saturday a special escorted trip is made to town so that the scientists can buy clothes and other personal necessities.

They receive a per diem of \$6, and pay \$62.50 for food and shelter per month. The remainder they have for personal needs. Their salary is paid entirely in the ETO to their dependents; the latter, where possible, have moved to Landshot where they receive special rations at an Army camp.

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Asked by Mr. Klaus what types of contracts they are now working under, Colonel Hazel of AGO, a patent lawyer by profession, stated that the present contracts are very sketchy. He also admitted that when the scientists are naturalized and become free agents there will be no way to tell which industry or concern they may turn to; furthermore the contracts would not necessarily be binding should they choose to leave the country.

Mr. Bradford pointed out in the connection that the scientists who worked with U.S. firms for several years might gain knowledge and know-how and then leave with this U.S. intelligence for Russia, Mexico or even Germany.

Mr. Klaus then asked for information as to how these ten candidates, whom the AAF wished to clear, had been screened. Lt. Froelich explained that the screening had been done largely on the basis of interrogations, and information provided by the scientists themselves on their backgrounds. ^{correspondence} Their, which was limited to immediate family members, was censored both incoming and outgoing. Four German-speaking Army officers lived in the same barracks and reported bits of information obtained from conversations with them in person, or items overheard, to Capt. Martig and Lt. Froelich. It was on the basis of this information, ^{and personal interviews} that Capt. Martig and Lt. Froelich formed their opinions regarding the candidate's political reliability. CIC interrogations were obtained where possible but the information from overseas has been very sketchy. Only one of the 10 candidates had a CIC clearance, namely Mr. Patin. A footnote stated that he was an Anti-Nazi, but as pointed out by Mr. Klaus the form itself showed he had been a member of the Nazi Party since May 1933. Mr. Klaus asked whether dictaphones and wire-tapping were being used, and Capt. Martig answered that no such measures had been taken. Furthermore, Mr. Klaus asked whether any concerted attempt had been made to find out what plans the scientists had made for the future, and whether any evidence had been noted of the scientists forming a clique or fraternal organization; Lt. Froelich answered, no, to these inquiries.

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The case of Dr. Albert C. Patin, one of the ten candidates was then discussed. "He is, according to Lt. Froelich's statements, an expert on flying instruments - remote control devices. "He competed with Siemens and Askania with his firm which numbered 6,000 employees. Lt. Col. Cranford pointed out that Patin was a genius who was several years ahead of the thinking in his field and therefore extremely valuable. In discussing the scientist's ability Lt. Froelich pointed out that according to Patin's own statement he would need about 15 of his assistants, men with special aptitudes in various fields, to reconstruct the designs and turn out the equipment.

Lt. Froelich was very much convinced of Patin's good will and his intentions toward the U.S. "He stated that Patin has served at Wright Field as chairman of the group of scientists; he has served as spokesman in clearing with Capt. Hartig and Lt. Froelich the sundry personal matters which arise, such as delays in payment of salaries to dependents etc. "Lt. Froelich stated that big promises had been made these men in Germany in 1945 to lure them to the U.S. and they are becoming restless as promises are not kept and valuable time seems to be slipping through their fingers.

Representatives of various firms have been interrogating Patin, and he has been writing reports on his work in Germany and his findings. Only 6 or 8 of the 34 scientists are at present working in laboratories under Army supervision; the others are writing desk reports and being interrogated. They do not have access to technological information and according to Lt. Froelich feel hindered in their work; no U.S. figures are provided them because of the security regulations. They have read the printed security regulations and are briefed regularly. They may not talk to anyone outside of the office without a U.S. officer present.

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Patin according to his own statement made to "L. Froelich tried to leave Germany in 1937 to accept a million dollar contract with Bendix, but he did not manage it because he could not leave the country legally. He now wants to bring over personnel and materials for his work. He has one factory in the Russian zone at Wolkenstein.

At this point in discussing the requirements for obtaining a visa under the present immigration laws Mr. Knight insisted that according to present laws no one who has belonged to a Fascist organization such as the Nazi Party is admissible on an immigration visa. Furthermore the burden of the proof of clearing himself in this respect lies with the individual applicant.

Mr. Flinn pointed out that the information provided regarding the ten applicants was hardly more than a biographical sketch, and entirely inadequate.

He went on to say that the Department needs:

- 1) New political interrogations carried out at Wright Field as long as the individuals are there .
- 2) TISC reports on these individuals pointing out why they are indispensable scientists, and the technical representatives' recommendations.
- 3) Full CIC reports from Germany with supporting documents including full details on applicant's background and affiliations provided by colleagues in the field, as well as other sources of information such as files of Societies to which they belonged, etc.
- 4) Full report of CIC investigation at Wright Field as to their judgment of the candidate.

In conclusion it was agreed that further information required by the State Department concerning the applicants would be outlined by the State Department representatives and transmitted to the Wright Field AAF personnel charged with the custody of the German scientists.